

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 12859 051417Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 SS-15
SP-02 PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SY-05 SYE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1737

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12859

EO 11652: SGDS-1
TAGS: PGEN UR US
SUBJECT: KORNIYENKO ON PILFERING BY SOVIET FIREMAN

1. DURING SEPT 5 MEETING WITH AMB AT MFA, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KORNIYENKO SAID HE WISHED TO RAISE WHAT APPEARED TO BE SOME SORT OF MISUNDERSTANDING REGARDING THE CONDUCT OF SOVIET FIREMEN DURING THE EMBASSY FIRE. US NEWS MEDIA WERE QUOTING THE US AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW TO THE EFFECT THAT SOVIET FIREMEN HAD STOLEN ITEMS FROM THE EMBASSY. KORNIYENKO SAID IT WAS HARD FOR THE SOVIET SIDE TO IMAGINE THIS WERE SO, BUT US MEDIA HAD REPORTED IT THIS WAY, AND SOVIET FIREMEN "WERE INSULTED."

2. THE AMB EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY US NEWSMEN IN MOSCOW IF, AFTER THE FIRE, ITEMS WERE FOUND TO BE MISSING. HE CONFIRMED THIS BECAUSE IT WAS IN FACT TRUE. THE EVIDENCE ADMITTELY WAS CIRCUMSTANTIAL, BUT IT SEEMED FAIRLY CLEAR THAT PETTY PILFERING HAD TAKEN PLACE. THE AMBASSADOR MADE CLEAR TO THE NEWSMEN THAT THE ITEMS WERE INSIGNIFICANT; HE ALSO HAD PRAISED THE FIREMEN FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING WORK AND REPEATED THAT PRAISE NOW.

3. KOORNIYENKO SAID IT WAS "EXCLUDED" THAT SOVIET FIREMEN COULD HAVE TAKEN ANYTHING; PERHAPS AMERICAN PERSONNEL HAD REMOVED THE ITEMS IN QUESTION. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THE POSITION OF BOTH SIDES ON THIS MATTER WAS CLEAR AND THERE WAS NO POINT IN DISCUSSING IT
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FURTHER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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